

casing 15 of clamping mechanism 30. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, a plate 3c to be cut is inserted through the U-shaped frame 17 through the aperture or slot 12' in cutting unit 16' and then into the clamping unit 30 through aperture 32.-

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 and ending on page 7, line 3 with the following text:

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-- In FIG. 5 the clamping mechanism is shown in the closed state. If sliding assembly 22a is drawn backwards, clamping mechanism 18 runs up on the clamping curve 23 because it is positively connected to the sliding unit 22a. The rod 22c is then driven into the shoe 18b telescopically. A slight torsion cannot be prevented, but this is not deleterious for cutting quality because the true cut occurs at the edges of the plate insertion hole 25 and is performed by the plate cutting unit 16' and the thrust-bearing casing 15 which is placed on a flat surface.-

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